

REMARKS

The Notice of Non-Complaint Amendment of August 29, 2006 has been carefully reviewed and this response addresses the Examiner's concerns. The claims of this amendment have been presented in ascending numerical order, and the presentation of two new claims, both numbered "32," has been corrected.

Claims 1-29 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, 13, 21 and 25 are currently amended. Claims 1-4, 9-12, 17-20, 26-29 are canceled. The Examiner has objected to claims 5, 7, 13, 15, 21, 23 and 25 for being dependent on a rejected claim and has rejected claims 1-4, 6, 8-12, 14, 16-20, 22, 24, and 26-29 over the prior art. Claims 6, 8, 14, 16, 22, 24 are amended to render them dependent on one of the amended objected-to claims. Claims 30-37 are added to rewrite original claims dependent on claim 1 and render them dependent on amended claim 25.

Claim Objections

Claims 5, 7, 13, 15, 21, 23 and 25 have been objected as being dependent on a rejected base claim.

The current amendments to the claims 5, 13, 21 and 25 overcome all of these objections and place these claims in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102

Claims 1-4, 8, 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Ichimura et al. (5,329,353 the '353 patent).

Amended claims and added claims are dependent on amended objected to claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichimura et al. (5,329,353).

Claims 9-12, 14, 16-20, 22, 24, 28 and 29 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichimura et al. (5,329,353) in view of Lobb (6,288,781-the '781 patent).

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Amended claims and added claims are dependent on amended objected to claims.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the amended claims and added claims are in condition for allowance.

In the event additional fees are required, please charge any underpayment of fees to or credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 03-2410, order 6536-139.

The following information is presented in the event that a call may be deemed desirable by the Examiner:

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Dated: September 25, 2006

Respectfully submitted,
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